



WFP India Country Brief September 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

While India has made tremendous progress over the last few decades in food grain production and a reduction in malnutrition rates, it continues to bear a huge burden of food and nutrition insecurity, ranking 101st out of 116 countries on the 2021 Global Hunger Index. Despite recent improvements, the prevalence of malnutrition is well above acceptable levels, and with large number of people, especially women and children, with micronutrient deficiency disorders. The Government of India has in place some of the world's largest food-based safety nets, reaching nearly 1 billion vulnerable people every month.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been working in partnership with the Government of India for more than 50 years. Currently WFP is providing technical assistance and capacity strengthening to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Government of India's food-based social protection schemes and other programmes that strengthen food security, nutrition and livelihoods and build resilience to shocks.

WFP works by demonstrating innovative solutions with pilots and evaluations that attract government investment in scaling up, documenting and sharing best practices across states and other countries in the region through south-south exchanges.



Income Level:
Lower Middle

Population:
1.38 billion

Chronic Malnutrition:
35.5% of children aged 6-59 months

2021/2022 Human Development Index:
132 out of 191 countries

Highlights

A joint WFP and NITI Aayog initiative, 'Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices on Millets Mainstreaming' (MEGP) received the Best Initiative for Promoting Millets at the *Poshak Anaaj Awards 2022*, held at the National Nutri-Cereal Convention 4.0 in Hyderabad, Telangana State. Since its launch on 19 July, the MEGP initiative has received more than 125 entries so far.

Operational Updates

Ensuring Access to Food

- WFP, in partnership with the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), developed an e-learning, multilingual, interactive and audio-visual training platform – [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#) in 2021. The LMS aims to train more than 30,000 government staff across the country on reforms and new technology being used in the Government's targeted public distribution system. To date, more than 32,000 modules have been completed by more than 11,000 registered government staff.
- WFP, in collaboration with DFPD, launched a fourth pilot of *Annapurti* (automated grain dispensing machine) at a fair price shop in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh State. This machine will be used to distribute approximately 105 MT of grains to 18,000 beneficiaries every month.

Improved Nutrition

- As part of the ongoing *Poshan Maah* (Nutrition Month) celebrations with the theme of '*Bacha and Shiksha- Poshan bhi Padhai bhi*' (focus on nutrition and education in schools), WFP engaged the schools in Varanasi District in activities such as rallies, poster and slogan making competitions. More than 53,000 people participated in the activities including school children, cooks, teachers, parents, and community members. WFP, in partnership with the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, organized a webinar on rice fortification to sensitise more than 100 medical and nursing students.
- On 11 September, the Government of Odisha inaugurated a WFP-supported take-home ration (THR) production plant in Bolangir District, in the presence of three Cabinet Ministers. The automated THR plant, the first of its kind, has a capacity of 1.6 MT/shift and will be operated by 20 members of local women's self-help groups in order to supply improved THR for use in the Government's supplementary nutrition programme. This will be complemented by nutrition awareness building among community members.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements until December 2022 (in USD)
16.54 m	20.52 m	0 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG 2.1)

Strategic Outcome 1: The most vulnerable people in India are better able to meet their minimum food and nutrition needs all year round.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activity 1: Provide policy inputs, advocacy and technical assistance aimed at enhancing the efficiency, targeting, service delivery and supply chain of government programmes for improving access to food.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG 2.2)

Strategic Outcome 2: People at high risk of malnutrition in India, especially women, children and adolescent girls, have improved nutrition by 2025.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activity 2: Support state and national governments in improving and integrating nutrition policies and programming, including through enhanced quality, advocacy and gender-transformative, systematic approaches.

Strategic Result 3: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG 17.9)

Strategic Outcome 3: National and state institutions have enhanced capacity to deliver on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and related targets, and collaborate with regional and global partners towards the attainment of SDG 2

Focus area: Root Causes

Activity 3: Strengthen institutional capacities at various levels in generating, sharing and using evidence for coordinated planning, roll-out and monitoring of actions for attaining Sustainable Development Goal 2.

Activity 4: Facilitate the efforts of the Government of India and other countries to share food security and nutrition knowledge and expertise and provide disaster risk management services for the region.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- On 27 September, WFP and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) organized a meeting to discuss progress on a joint study of the effects of climate change on food and nutrition security in India. The parties agreed on the way forward in preparing a funding proposal for the second phase of the study.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

- On 20 September, WFP held an internal consultation on SSTC to review work completed under the current Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2019-2023) and to plan for mainstreaming across all four strategic outcomes in the upcoming CSP (2023-2027).

Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction

- On 13 September, WFP organised a meeting to explore the potential of forming a consortium on millets. Participants included representatives from ICRISAT, the Aga Khan Foundation, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), India Millet Initiative and WFP. The group agreed to work together towards contributing to the Government's initiatives in celebration of the International Year of Millets in 2023.
- WFP attended a meeting at the French Embassy on the European Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) initiative, and its private sector engagement forum, the "Global Business for Food Security" coalition. The purpose of the meeting was to understand how the private sector can contribute in improving global food security and nutrition and in promoting resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Gender and Inclusion

- WFP organised a meeting with officials from Tribal Area Development Department, Government of Rajasthan, to discuss potential programmes to enhance tribal women's livelihoods through self-help groups, based on the findings from a study on food security and vulnerability of tribal population in Rajasthan State.

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